

From: [Nelson, Russell](#)
To: [Sarah Furtak - NOAA Federal](#)
Subject: RE: Consultation update: LA WQS
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 4:01:00 PM

Hello Sarah,

Thank you very much for the response.

In that response, you noted that you would appreciate it if the applicant know that it is preferable for them to use PCTS link rather than contact the biologist assigned to this project directly as that only slows the process. As you may know that there is no applicant per se, but that the EPA is initiating this informal consultation pursuant to the 2001 Memorandum of Agreement between the EPA and the Services.

Having no experience with the NMF's PCTS system, I have the following questions:

1. Can you instruct me as to how to contact you through the PCTS system if that is preferred?
2. I may have overlooked it, but is there a way to print the species determination information provided through the system for our records?
3. As part of the informal consultation, I have defined the Louisiana water quality standards action and obtained a species list through the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) site. This consultation was assigned to Monica Sikes at the USFWS ESFO in Lafayette. I spoke to Monica earlier today and let her know I had entered the project in IPaC and received a species list. Unlike the list you provided through PCTS, it did not provide any species determination information, which is extremely helpful. My question to you concerns the species that are duplicated on those lists and where the USFWS/ESFO and NMFS jurisdiction begins/ends. My assumption is that the USFWS will address those in fresh water, and possibly estuarine, or does NMFS cover estuarine and open water?

I should note that there is significant interest in both the EPA's action approving the dissolved oxygen criteria in the action area and regarding this consultation from the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, representing the Ouachita RiverKeeper. I am in the early stages of developing a biological evaluation for the listed species in the action area, with particularly interest in the Alabama (inflated) heelsplitter and the Gulf and pallid sturgeons, which were identified as of specific interest to Tulane/Ouachita RiverKeeper.

Again, thank you very much for your response!

Russell Nelson

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From: Sarah Furtak - NOAA Federal [<mailto:sarah.furtak@noaa.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 4:39 PM

To: Nelson, Russell <nelson.russell@epa.gov>

Subject: Consultation update: LA WQS

Dear Russell,

I am writing to let you know that the request to initiate informal consultation regarding EPA's approval of Louisiana's adopted amendments to surface water quality standards (DO criterion) (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] tracking number SER-2017-18530) has been assigned to me and to give you my contact information in case you have any questions.

You can check the status of your consultation through the Public Consultation Tracking System (PCTS) at <https://pcts.nmfs.noaa.gov/>. Please follow the attached directions to access your project and get information on the status of the project. Please scroll all the way to the bottom of the record to read status updates. If there is no new information in that section, then

there is no new information on the status of the project.

We would greatly appreciate it if you let your applicant know this and that it is preferable for them to use PCTS link rather than contact the biologist directly for project information as that only slows the process.

Please note the NMFS tracking number above on future emails for reference.

Thank you.

Sarah Furtak

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